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PRICK

June/July 2012 - Vol. 12 Issue 5

Magazine

Featuring:

L.T. Woods

**5 Finger
Death Punch**

**3 Tattoo
Conventions
& More**

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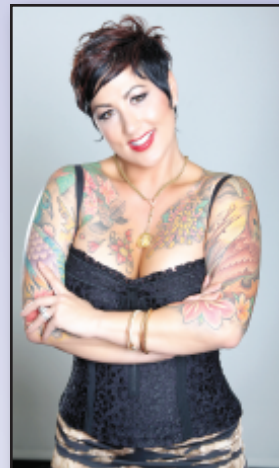


PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Upon every issue of PRICK magazine, I greet everyone via this informative and heartfelt publisher's note. I try and hype up the issue and keep everyone current as to how things are going in the world of PRICK Magazine. Well... this issue is actually a great issue, but I have some even greater news to announce. Not only am I going to be bringing you PRICK Magazine, I will also be the Editor and Production/Design Manager of Skin Art, Tattoo Revue, Tattoos for Men, Tattoos for Women and Tabu Tattoo! That's right; I have SIX magazines to fill with amazing content. I can finally promote ALL things awesome in the Tattoo community on an even bigger and more established national platform!

I urge everyone from this month forward to support and buy these other magazines at a newsstand nearest you. If your local bookstore or gas station does not carry these titles, hit me up and we will get them in your area. I know it seems funny for me to be pushing other magazines but Casey Exton, publisher of said titles and my new boss, after years of me nagging him, gave me the job. So if you know Casey and/or his publications, thank him and give him your love, because he has given me a real job to support my PRICK habit! Just in time, no less, because PRICK has been much like a bad drug addiction as of late. It was killing me emotionally and financially, but I just couldn't drop it because I loved it so. On top of that, I can afford to go back to ALL GLOSS!! Send any questions or submissions for any and all topics mentioned to chuckb@prickmag.net

– Chuck B.



ON THE COVER:
Thora Dowdell

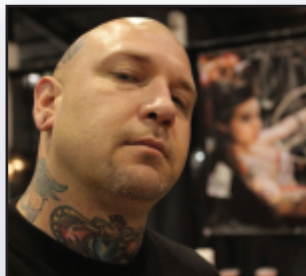
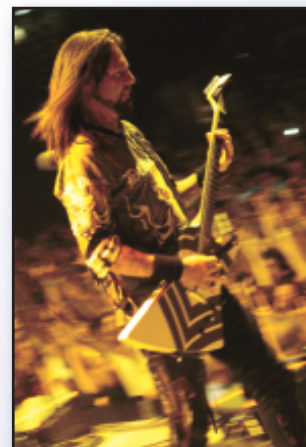


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Asheville Tattoo Fest

BY KASEY SWINFORD PHOTOS BY CASSANDRA DECORTE

The 1st Annual Asheville Tattoo Fest was brilliantly amazing! Everyone involved worked together to make this inaugural event truly shine, and when I say everyone, I mean everybody that attended the event in any way. The staff of the beautiful and newly renovated Renaissance Hotel in Asheville, NC were among the most welcoming and friendly staff of any hotel to ever hold a Tattoo Convention. The success of this first year event was a huge compliment to the four promoters — James



Mike Skivers on the mic, Host Chris Longo in suit, Vince Villavalzo tattooing, Mary Leigh Maxwell's mirror by Russ Abbott, Igor's "Ratso" portrait by Andy Chambers





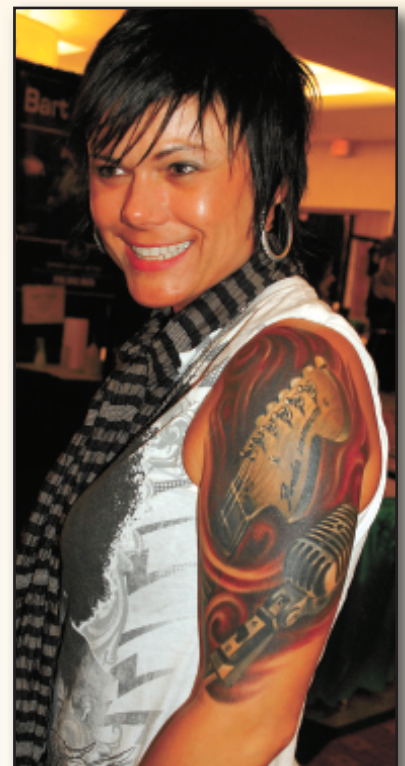
Jack Rudy tattooing Chuck B., the judges panel, Kerry Lawing and his multiple awards including one for the music category (see below), female black and grey winners.



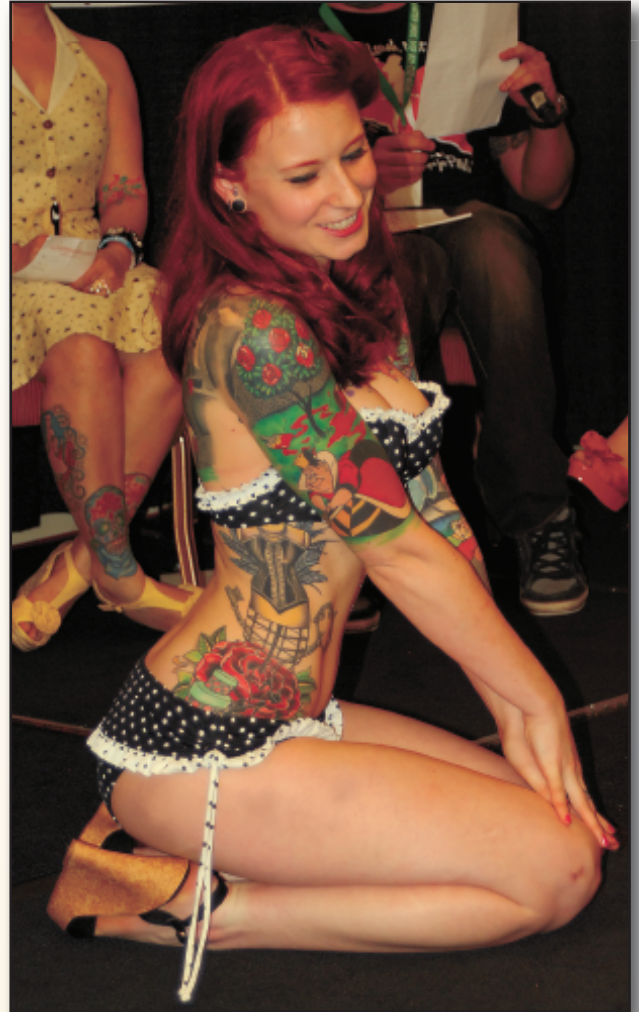
Vaughn, Scotty Whitaker, J.R. Yarnall & Daron James — who put the whole thing together.

Everywhere you looked, there was something unique to see. Plenty of hot tattoo artists and industry legends were present, from the cast of Inkmaster (Shane Oneil, Tommy Helm, James Vaughn and Lea Vendetta) to Mamie White from The Wild and Wonderful Whites of West Virginia and even a few Star Wars characters. Every tattoo artist that attended ATF1 brought nothing more than their absolute best for the attendees that got tattooed.

"We have successfully brought the art world of tattooing to the art world of Asheville, NC" said Daron James. Promoter James Vaughn said next year's event will be even bigger and better than the first. If that's the case, add St. Patrick's day weekend to your calendar now for The 2nd Annual Asheville Tattoo Fest (ATF2), held March 14-17th, 2013! ★



Asheville Tattoo Fest



Red Heads a plenty and Mamie White kept the party rolling all weekend. There were girls with blonde, brown and black hair as well. This page just randomly ended up this way.



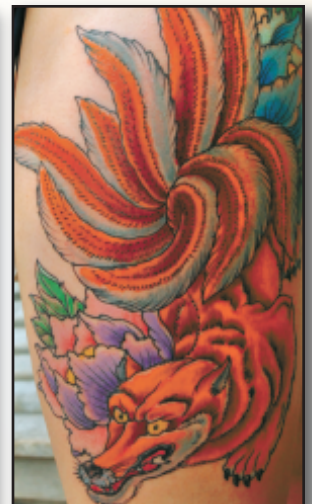
Several Sexy Ladies! And one man. The Pin Up Girl contest showed a lot of skin, while Mamie White kept the crowd's collective jaw dropped (top left), and the finest red heads this side of the Mississippi: Mary Leigh Maxwell and tattoo artist Lea Vendetta pose quite well for the camera.





Pig's feet extraordinaire! Bart Andrews tattooing a fox (below) on this foxy fox. 'Hillbilly Pimpin.' Winner of best overall female is Ruby Red (below) with host Daron helping her carry the important stuff (brandy).

Ashville Tattoo Fest



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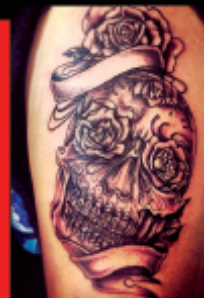
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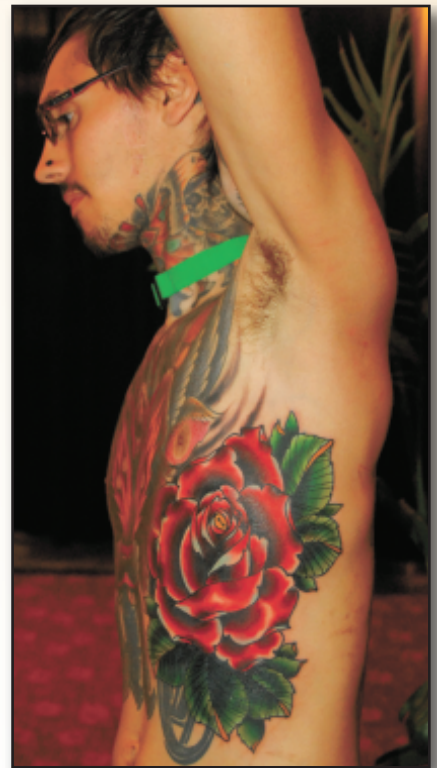
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Asheville Tattoo Fest



Durb Morrison smiles, top three female tattoo contest winners, more pinups, a beautiful flowering leg in the contest, and Nico's rose ribs won 2nd place for Large color.





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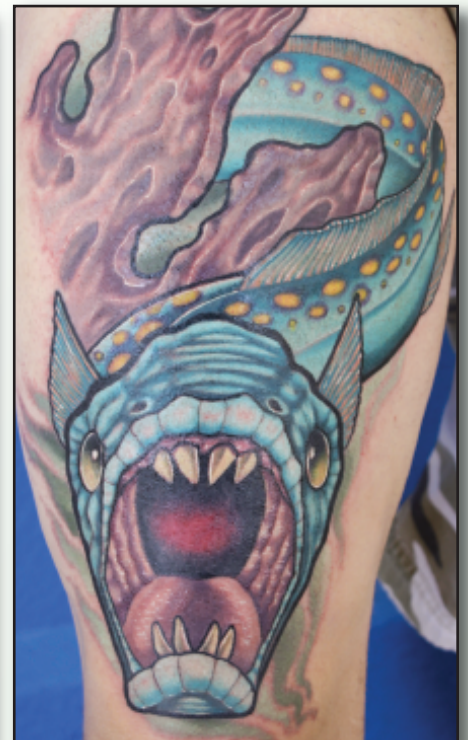
LT Woods

Mom's Body Shop San Francisco, CA

BY MATT WOODY

Growing up in Missouri, tattoo artist L.T. Woods has been drawing and painting since a very early age. Throughout grade school, art seemed to be the one thing that motivated L.T. to produce his best work, so he stuck with the passion. He always had an eye for drawing, knowing that it would one day lead to a full-time career. His family didn't think art would be a viable option, but everything seemed to work out in L.T.'s favor, when all is said and done.

The interest with tattoos would come from early memories of his own father's ink. An early memory recalls a trip the two had to the Lake of the Ozarks, where a trip by tattoo shop windows sparked something in the then 8-year-old L.T. While he was a good decade from being able to get tattooed legally, he decided the wait was long enough at age 13.



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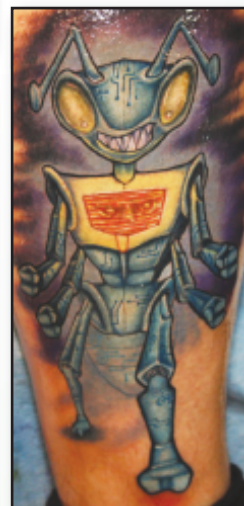
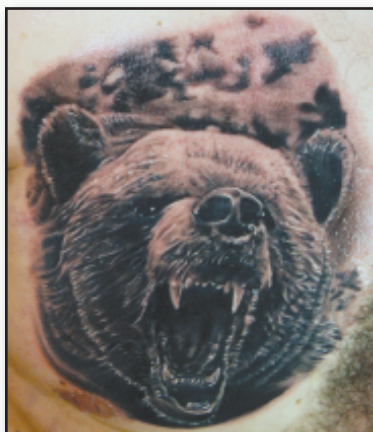
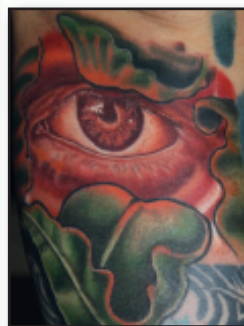
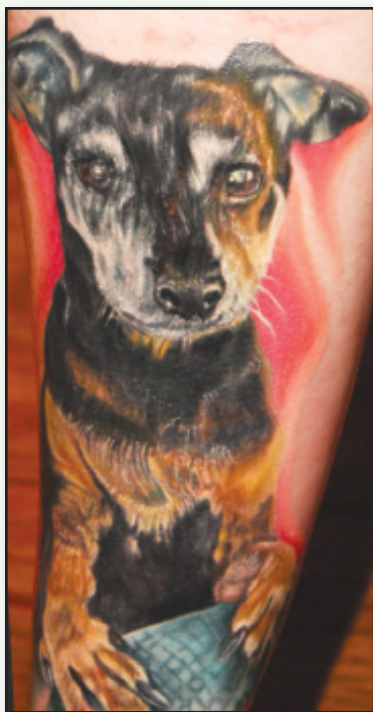
LT Woods

"I had to hide it from my dad and got into big shit when he found out, 'cause it got infected," recalls L.T. "Imagine that!"

It's clear that L.T. had a strong interest in getting tattooed more-so than most kids his age.

"I got into tattooing as a need to get out of a criminal life style. I had been dealing drugs for quite some time after going to prison. I knew if I kept living that life style, I would end up in prison or die. Neither sounded that great."

L.T. asked local Jason Cross for an apprenticeship to help him into earning an honest dollar, but his start with body modification would actually begin with piercing. After a few months of perfecting this newly-learned craft, he moved to Houston, TX. He joined the employee roster at Cryptic Images and really let his art develop from this point forward. With some encouragement from co-workers, L.T. started tattooing friends. He can





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bravely admit that the work was not his best (“it sucked!” - L.T.), but the idea of becoming a full-time tattoo artist pushed him to excel.

Woods didn't stay positioned at one tattoo shop, though. He wouldn't even stay in one city, and eventually he sought after a life on the road, guest tattooing and attending trade shows along the way. After Cryptic Images, Woods moved to Columbia, MO and the Hollywood Rebels shop. He studied under Cy Young before moving onto Scotty Lammers at Midway Tattoo. From here he followed a traveling lifestyle, but he eventually settled down at Tattoo Zoo in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

But he would, again, move back to Missouri and tattoo with

Tattoo Ted and Doc Wolf in an Ozark tourist shop for the summer. The last shop in Missouri he would work at would be Rock Star in St. Charles. At this point, L.T. would make a huge career decision: opening his own shop.

Rites of Passage, owned and operated by L.T. Woods, was opened in Yuma, AZ and lasted for about five years. Stress and exhaustion caused Woods to end his ownership of the studio, so he once again set out on a new mission. He made it to California and worked at Artistic Element with Roman Abrego in Yucaipa, CA. After a three-month stint, Woods says his styling and artistic direction were really evolving the most, and it really shows in the past four years



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LT Woods

or so of his works. Drawings, paintings and tattoos ranged from animated to photo-realistic and all in between.

"I would have to say that illustration and color realism are my strong points. I like doing tattoos that have hidden means or tell a story with just a picture."

For the last 10 months, L.T. has worked at Mom's Body Shop in San Francisco, CA. He still travels to share his art with the world, and who wouldn't? No matter what your background may be, visiting different areas of the world to share your experiences with others is what every artist dreams.

If you'd like to get tattooed or purchase art from L.T., you can contact him at <http://ltwoodsart.com>. He just appeared as a guest artist at Off the Map at the end of April, but he'll be tattooing dates in August for Ron Russo's Art of the Dead show. For European collectors, Woods will be appearing at the Evian Tattoo Convention in October. ★

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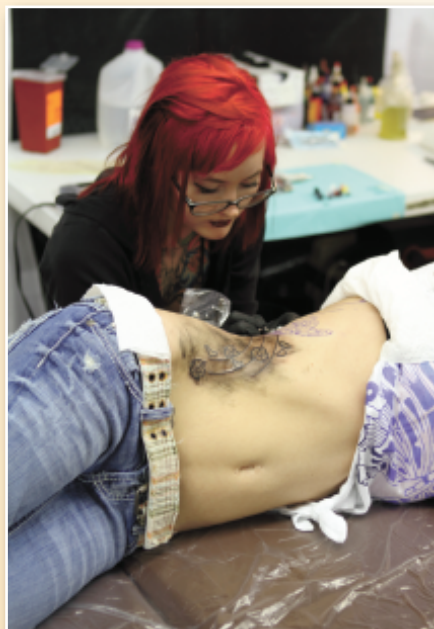
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Needle Art Expo

BY K9K0HL PHOTOS BY SCOTT POWERS

All I can say about the Needle Art Expo — hosted by Johnny Deathstar Nobody and his beautiful wife Brix Nobody and held Feb 17th, 18th and 19th — is Holy Crap! The Expo was awesome with some of the best artists and shops from all over the country. Some of the shops that made their own trail to the Expo were Folk City Tattoo of Suffolk, VA; Revolution Tattoo of West Lafayette, IN; Evolve Body Jewelry of Seattle, WA; Voodoo Dolls of Jasper, IN; Long Beach Ink Assassins of Long Beach, CA and a whole lot more. This was their 2nd year and it has doubled from last year, which says something in itself about



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The Needle Art Expo. Among the best artists around were the Hottest Women to help make the numerous contests more eye appealing. One of my favorites was The Hottest Butt contest, and all I can say about that was WOW. Of course, there were the Best and the Worst Tattoos, which the latter shows us why you shouldn't get one from someone who is drunk or high. While walking around I noticed that no one was just sitting around, and that can be verified by the hum of all the tattoo machines going off all day. It sounded like numerous swarms of pissed off bees but was music to everyone's ears. As stated earlier, the Expo had doubled from last year and you could see that by all the awesome booths that were set up. There were over 80 artists, and seeing them all working at the same time was too cool for words. In this economy, that's something Johnny and Brix can be proud of. One of my favorite sites was model Shannon Million walking around with "I Love Prick Magazine" painted on her body, compliments of Michelle The Body Painter. Even though Mother Nature was threatening to be hard on us, everyone still came out to see their favorite artists or to make new ones. And Mother Nature did keep her word; she came down on us hard and heavy. The Best Tattoo of the Day (Friday) went to Chip Rutz with Belly of Whale Tattoo and Artistic Imaginarium (what an awesome imaginative name) in Murfreesboro, TN. Saturday's went to Pat Bennett from Icon Tattoo — also in Murfreesboro. Best Tattoo of the Show also went to Pat Bennett, and all I can say is I'm glad I

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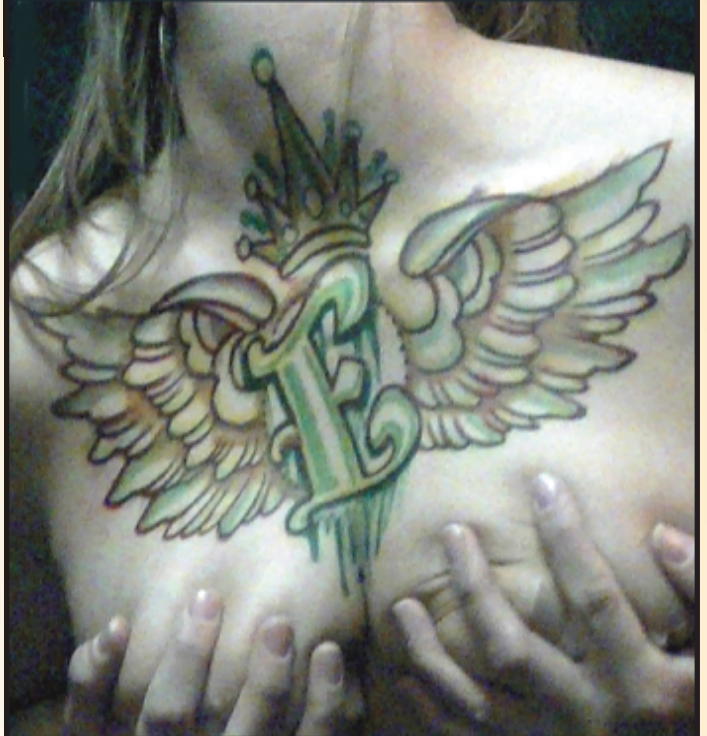
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wasn't doing the judging! It was a tough call as they were all great. When I went by the booth for Kustom Thrills Tattoo out of Nashville, I noticed they had four artists and all working at the same time the duration of the Expo. In summary, I don't think for one minute about missing next year's Needle Art Expo. This is an awesome opportunity to meet great artists locally and from afar to get your tattoos and body jewelry all in one place. Don't believe me? Just go to [facebook.com/needleartexpo](https://www.facebook.com/needleartexpo) and see for yourself! I'm sure next year will double in size yet again with all the great artists and entertainment it has. And you never know; there just may be a Hot Rod and Bike show attached if mother nature doesn't get mad again. Don't be left out in the street. Hit up Johnny Deathstar Nobody and make your reservations now. Until next time: keep the artwork flowing. ★



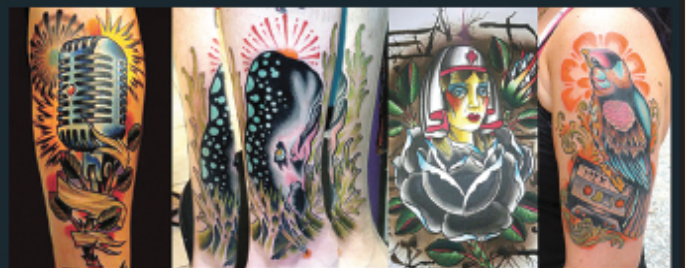
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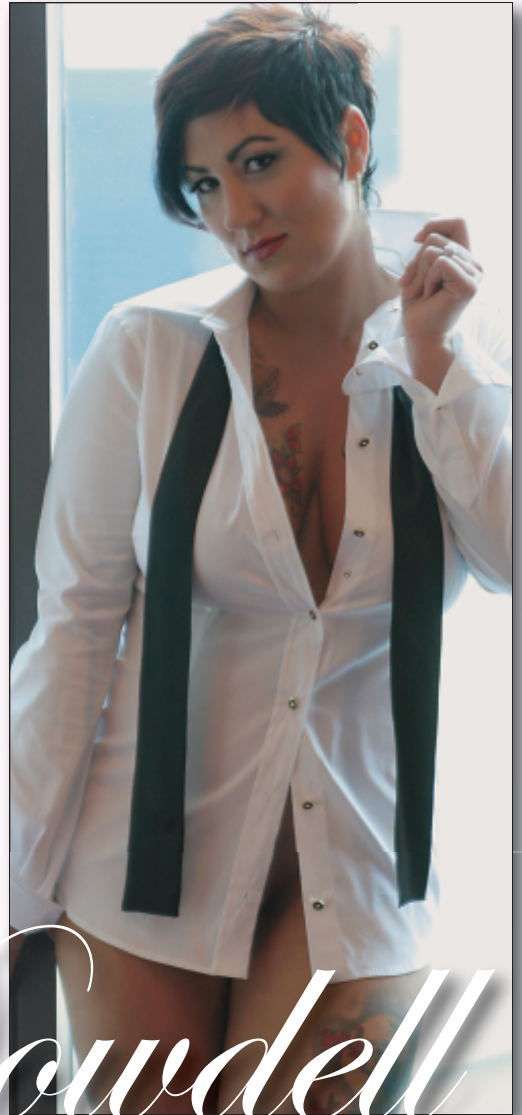
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Thora Dowdell

An Innocent Beginning

By Matt Woodydy

We were able to catch up with Club Tattoo Las Vegas artists in the last issue of Prick, but now we're going to dive deep into the mind of an owner. Thora Dowdell, co-owner and wife of artist Sean Dowdell, has been getting tattoo for about 20 years now.

Thora's introduction to tattooing began like most of our experiences with the gun. She had an incredible urge to express her individuality, and permanent body art just happened to be the most logical decision. At just 20-years-old, she asked some friends what parlor she should visit instead of actually researching her options, something she encourages all those interested in tattooing should do for themselves. While that very first tattoo has since been covered up and her journey with tattooing has continued, Thora's current involvement in the sacred, timeless artform is not something that

your average tattoo collector can claim. Since 1995, she has co-owned Club Tattoo with her husband Sean and Linkin Park lead vocalist Chester Bennington.

Let's slow down for a moment. After that very first tattoo Thora got when she was 20, she knew almost right away that she needed more. It's quite an addictive hobby, isn't it? You can look at these photos and tell that her current work is vibrant; it boldly stands out from Thora's skin.

"I love nature and birds," she states. "For me, my body art is an extension of accessorizing my personality. I believe that tattoos don't necessarily have to represent something or someone, but can be something you admire, just as an art collection on your walls."

Once Thora Dowdell was positive she wasn't going to work for anyone else, she began getting work done on her arms. And she didn't just choose random artists, either. Thora was fortunate enough to receive work by Jo Harrison during her guest stay in the United States, Ben Wallenborn, Chris Bailey, Rick Godsey, Walter Frank, Matt and Wookiee. Many of these artists currently work for Club Tattoo, build-

Thera Dowdell



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Thora Dowdell



ing their portfolios and reputations in the original Tempe location until walk-in clients could no longer be taken. As she collected some truly amazing artwork from Arizona's (and elsewhere) finest, the development of Club Tattoo was just getting started.

During the first five years of Club Tattoo's existence, Thora describes the shop and its growing reputation as a blast.

"Of course, working with your friend and lover has its ups and downs," she says. "However, many more pleasurable times were had than not. We each have very defined roles within the company, and my husband and I are very blessed to have the opportunity that most couples don't have. Our lives have been enriched by working together for so many years; a trusted bond nobody can break."

As that tight bond continued to grow between husband and wife, so did the image of Club Tattoo. It wasn't long until the Tempe-based parlor branched out into alternative markets, such as men's and women's clothing and a huge selection of custom pierced jewelry. By 2003, the solo location had reached its peak, so a second Tempe location was added to ease the work volume. Four months after a second location was added, a third store was

established in Mesa. Glendale and Las Vegas locations were eventually added next, bringing the current total of Club Tattoo locations to five.

At this point, it's no doubt that you're thinking of Thora Dowdell as the Wonder Woman of the business side of tattooing. She's helped usher in a new way for clients to experience tattooing. She's helped grow a brand from one location to five in under 15 years. She's helped create a lasting impression on all who visit a Club Tattoo location.

Thora is excited to announce some very special news with Club Tattoo, and Prick Magazine just so happens to be the first public outlet to receive word. We printed this last issue, so to refresh your memory: "We will be opening a location in San Francisco at Pier 39, mid-summer of 2012. Be sure to stop by Pier 39 and check us out, like us on Facebook or go to ClubTattoo.com for news and updates!"

Thanks, Thora. We wish you and Club Tattoo much luck with all your shops, new and old! ★

5 Finger Death Punch

BY MATT WOODY PHOTOGRAPHY BY KASEY SWINFORD

Originally formed by U.P.O. bassist Zoltan Bathory and W.A.S.P. drummer Jeremy Spencer, Five Finger Death Punch became a reality in 2005.

The name derives from classic film culture centering on martial arts, an appropriate choice considering the band's energetic approach to heavy metal. It wasn't long before the band recorded their first album, *The Way of the Fist*, which was released on July 13, 2007. An instant success within its first week, the Billboard charting album was mixed and produced by a team of veteran engineers who have made artists from Ozzy Osbourne to Metallica stand out. But Five Finger Death Punch got to their current status with much more than just an excellent team on their side; they took on the world by

playing loud music to hundreds of thousands.

Shortly after the debut album dropped, the band was fortunate enough to snag a supporting slot on Korn's *Family Values* Tour. Later in 2007, 5FDP also supported Korn on the band's *Bitch We Have a Problem* Tour, so it's quite obvious

that the Los Angeles band had quickly made a name for itself. Fan hype propelled the band into a constant touring frenzy come 2008, but lead singer Ivan Moody needed a quick break to recuperate from developing cysts on his vocal cords. One month later in April, Ivan made a full recovery and the band was back on the road. This time, they were supporting Disturbed on their *Indestructible* tour in the United States.

So where does a band go from here? In less than three years of existence, the band has been able to captivate the ever-growing heavy metal fanbase and consistently tour to





reflect a dedication to musicianship. In mid-May of 2008, 5FDP re-released their debut album with a few bonus licks. 2008 was also the same year the band was asked to play the infamous, touring Mayhem Festival. But 2009 brought changes right from the start, and guitarist Jason Hook replaced band member Darrell Roberts in January. Jason filled in and supported the band in their final push to promote their debut album at the 2009 Download Festival, as new material would soon make its way into the band's repertoire.

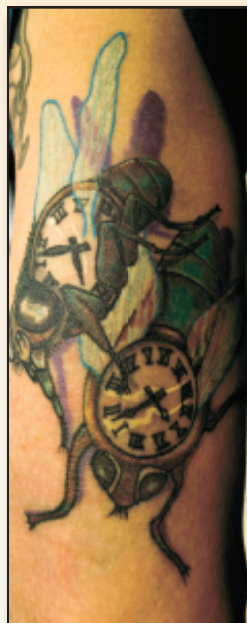
Released in late July 2009, 5FDP's second album, *War Is the Answer*, was immediately met with critical praise and fan exaltation. Opening at Number 7 on the Billboard 200 and certified gold by the RIAA, it looked like 2009 was all about 5FDP and their continuing road to success. The band headed out on the road once again, first all across the United States and then to Europe, with *The Shock and Raw* as the banner tour name.

Five Finger Death Punch has continued onward with success riding comfortably on their side. Appearances in 2010 included the *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* show, as well as Download Festival main stage to support Korn, Rob Zombie and Lamb of God. "Dying Breed" was featured in the Namco Bandai Games' video game *Splatterhouse*. At the end of 2010, the band set out to record their third studio album, *American Capitalist*. A fourth studio album is currently in the works, with mobile recording gear on their tour bus while they travel. Get Death Punched! ★

Tampa Tattoo fest

BY JEN ARNEY

I believe it goes to say that the 13th Annual Tampa Bay Tattoofest was bigger and better than ever. It was certainly pulled off without a hitch. With legends in attendance like Philadelphia Eddie, Doc Dog and Bowery Stan, we should not expect anything less. Some of the show's sponsors included Eternal Tattoo Supply, Steadfast Brand and Honey Hole Entertainments. Due to its growing size, show promoter Bruce Ripley made the executive decision to swap the venue this year to the more accommodating Manatee Convention Center. Living up to its reputation for being a Florida tattoo tradition, Tattoofest was again filled with badass artists from all over with enough skin and shenanigans to fulfill even the pickiest of tattoo enthusiasts.



Eugene Ta'ase of Sacred Center Tattoo, 1st place Small Tattoo by Will Arney, Friday's Best of Day Black and Grey by Brandon Summers of Classic Ink, Mean Mike of Hurts So Good, Rogue Golden Girls by Frank of Another Dimension, J Michael Taylor tattooing.

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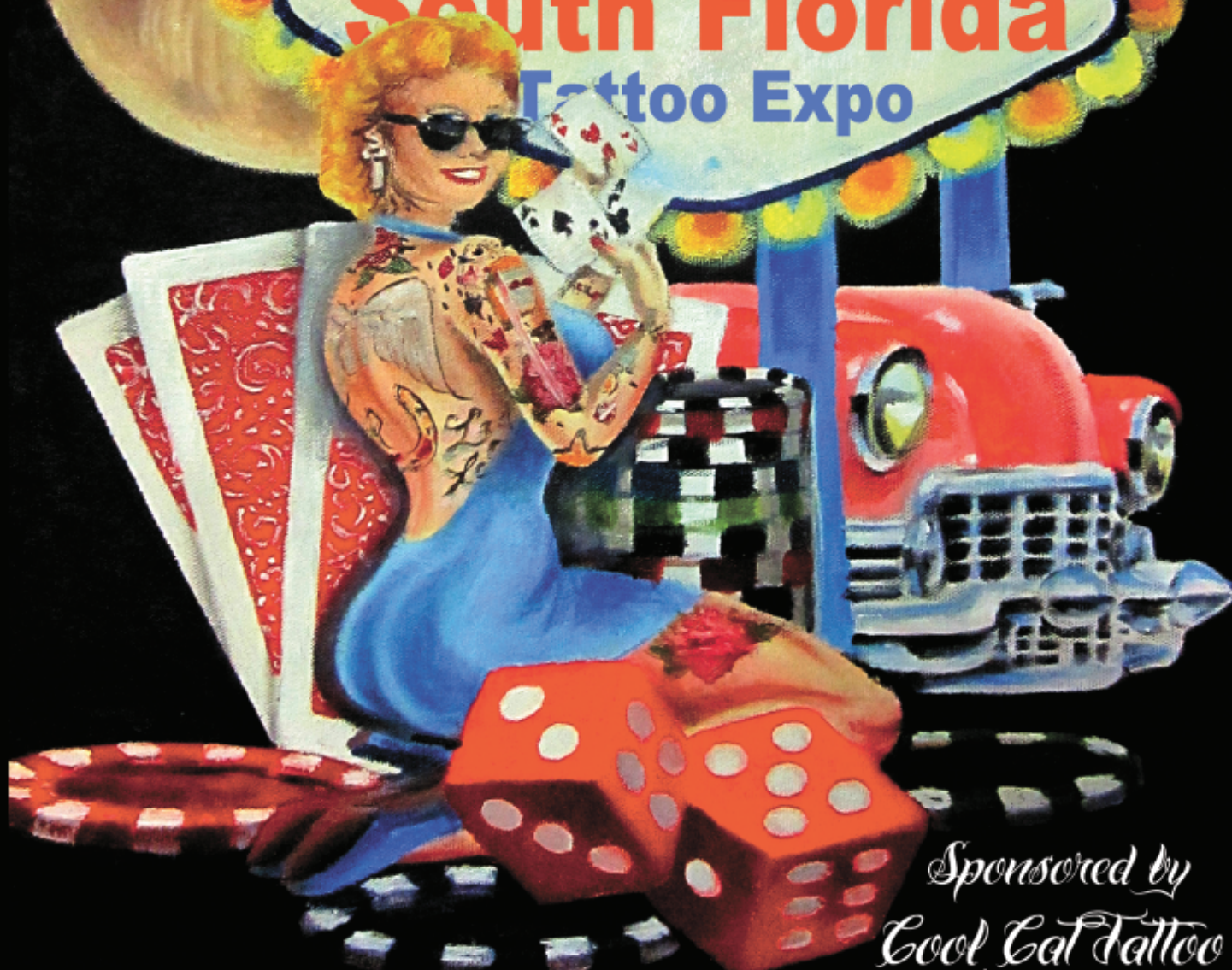
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Tampa Tattooofest



Kristen of Z-Edge Tattooing, the Best of Day Black and Gray. Breast love by Stacie Becker won third place Best of Day. Second place color by Tikis took 2nd place in Saturday's Best of Day by Heather Fields of Skinfinity. Aaron Is and Todd Williams teamed up for this crocodile. Shark won Best of Day Saturday by Derek Allen also of Skinfinity.



Tampa Tattooofest

The days were jam-packed with killer artwork and busy tattoo chairs. The Best of Day competitions were fierce, as per usual. But this year's convention also had a greater focus on canvas art. Every aisle in the convention hall was adorned with a wide array of artwork from area and attending artists, allowing even those not getting tattooed to walk home with a lifelong piece of art.

Mark Longnecker of Endless Summer, Punk Rock Betty Fashion Show, Jen Arney shows her Prick love, and Loco of Dharma Tattoo.



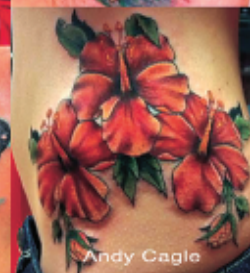
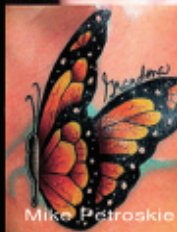
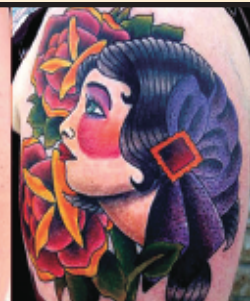
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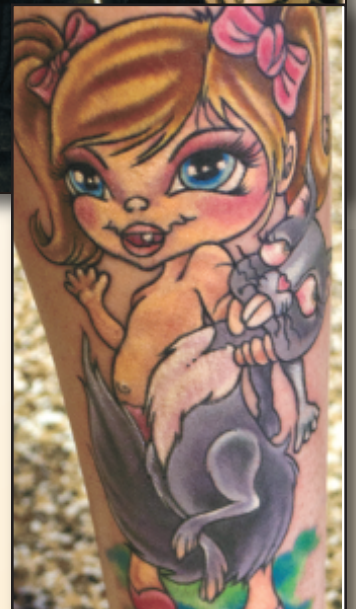
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Tampa Tattooofest



Liz Tarter showing off her new neckwear, Cherry Von Topp of the Burlesque After Party, Aaron Is lets his daughter tattoo him. 3rd place Best of Day Friday goes to Miss Mindy of Studio XIII

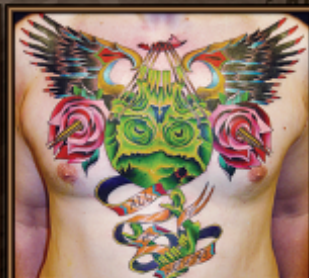


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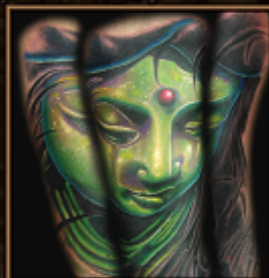
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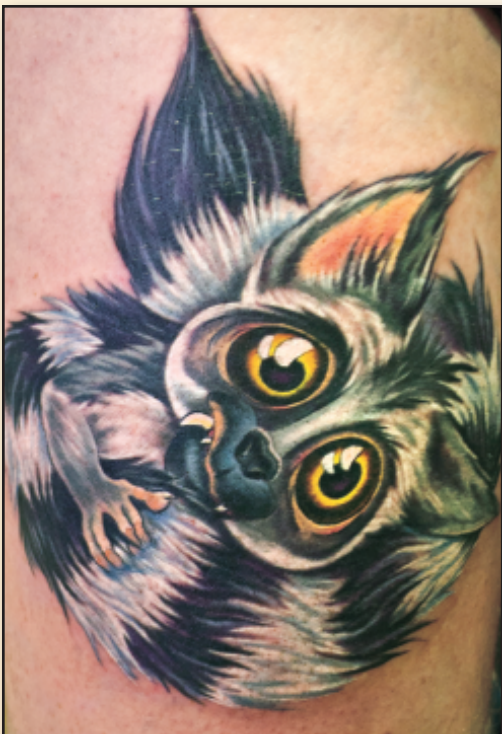
Tampa Tattoofest

The evenings that followed the business side of the convention were filled with drunken good times. The Siesta Inn opened their tiki bar and parking lot for all kinds of debauchery. Punk Rock Betty and Z-Edge sponsored a fashion show that adorned punk rock broads with corset piercings and rockin' attire. Before and after the fashion show, Le Teaze Burlesque Troupe and dancer Cherry Von Topp wooed the audience with their sexy moves and bangin' bodies. And all the while, sponsor Sailor Jerry kept the rum flowing, so you know it was a good time.

Since the first year at the new venue was such a huge success, I can't wait to see what Bruce and Randy pull off for next year. It is guaranteed to be an event of epic proportions. We will definitely be there with our party hats on! For more information on Tattoofest and to register for next year's event, check out the Tampa Bay Tattoofest Website at <http://tattoofest.com/>. ★



Best of Day Friday Color goes to Dave Walls of Classic Ink for Young Frankenstein, Best of Day Color Sunday to Miss Mindy, Jellyfish by Justin Forgea from a Body of Art. Best of Day Black and Gray for portrait by Doug Hatter of Z-Edge.



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CAPE FEAR TATTOO & ARTS FEST

BY CHUCK B.



Title page tattoo info on page 47

Held in April of this year, the second annual Cape Fear Tattoo & Arts Expo took place in Wilmington, NC. With an impressive artist lineup, the convention included contests, prizes, workshops, seminars and body suspension performances. The area in which the show is held is right across from beautiful river scenery and the downtown bar district. It was impossible not to enjoy yourself. There was something to impress with every turn of the eye, as the talent present kept every square inch of the convention center busy and exciting. Tattoo icon Chris Longo, better known as the Mayor of Tattooville, was the MC for the weekend, so you know events stayed fun and entertaining.

But the artists present were certainly a main attraction for many of the guests who attended. Inkmaster contestants James Vaughn, Lea Vendetta and Bili Vegas were all on hand to showcase their skills in front of a live audience, but the rest of the booths were lined with a who's who cast of the tattoo industry. Cape Fear is one of those conventions you really have to experience for yourself. With only two years completed, the third installment in this Wilmington-based series should certainly be a must-do on any tattoo enthusiast's list. Enjoy all the amazing tattoos and antics we were able to capture on the next few pages. For a gallery of this year's events and to stay updated on next year's info, pay attention to the Cape Fear website: <http://www.capefearexpo.com/>. ★





CAPE FEAR TATTOO & ARTS FEST



Title Page: Tattoo of the Day 1st place winner by Andy Chambers and Randy Templan on Evan Carpinelli, shark, Charlie Day portrait won 2nd place Tattoo of the Day on Tony by Darren Hall, Tox's Morgan Freeman portrait by Pepper won 1st place Black and Gray, Josh Edward's shark by Stew Vossburgh, Alex Beavers' 300 Portrait by Drew Beavers, Elizabeth McCoy's skull by Kerry Lawing
This page: Event producer Bart Andrews and show staffers. Host Chris Longo in pink. Facing Page: Roller Derby Ladies, Lea Vendetta, Robbie Crisp tattoos a Mucha-influenced geisha on Jeremy Brooks, group of organizers and tattoo aficionados, 1st Place Black and Gray for Josh Lee's portrait of Popcorn Sutton by TJ Poole.

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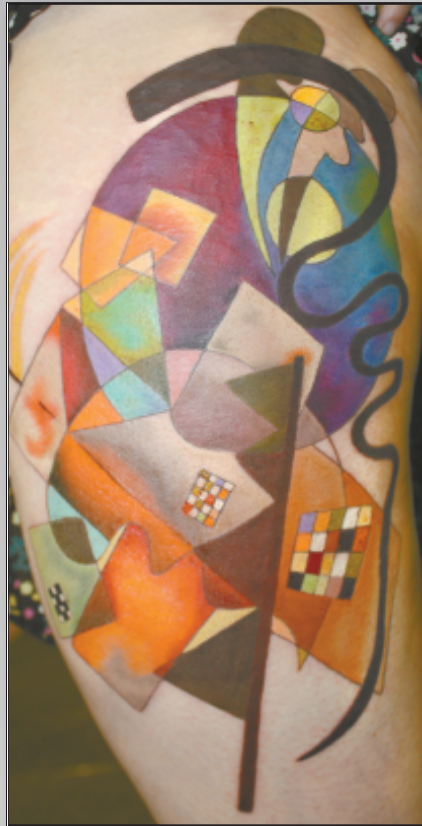
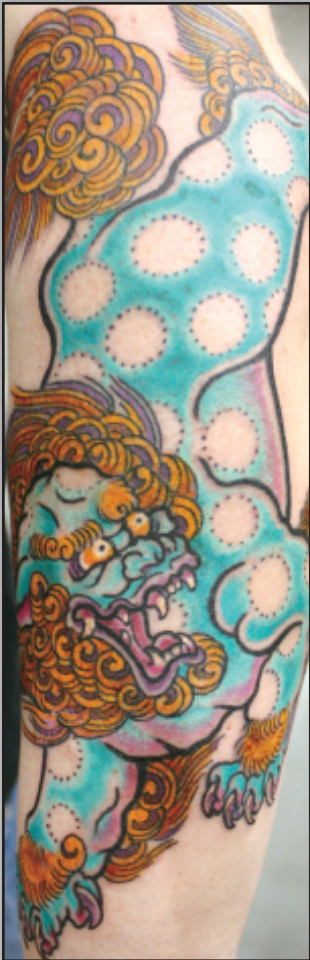
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Jamie Weringo got a Fu dog by Zee, Kandinsky Cubist piece on Lindsey Right by E, Mark Carter shows off some of his artwork, Mark Matthijs gets Matt Bagwell to tattoo a portrait of his mother that won 2nd place Black and Gray, Tracie's Wolf by Dave Lukeson



CAPE FEAR TATTOO FEST

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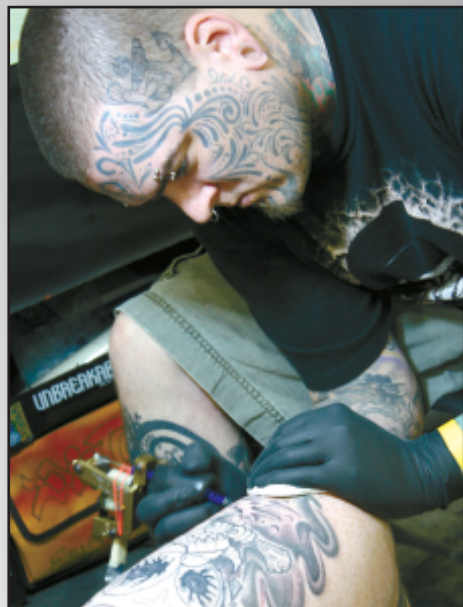
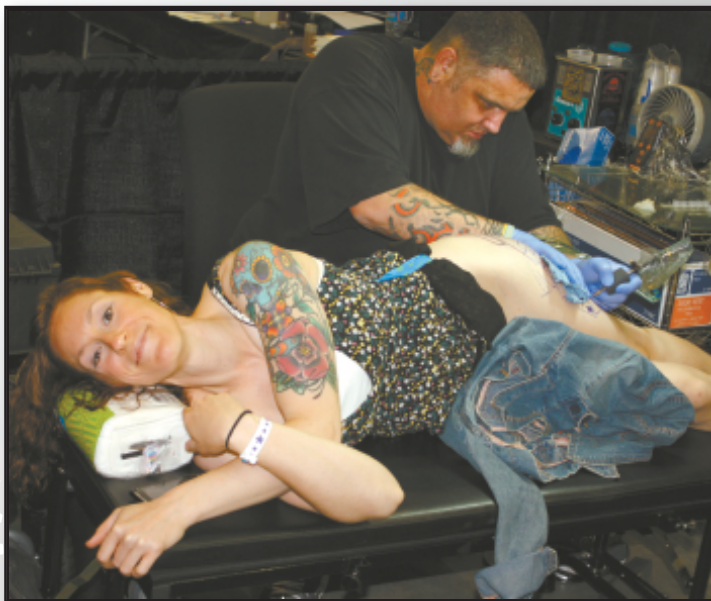
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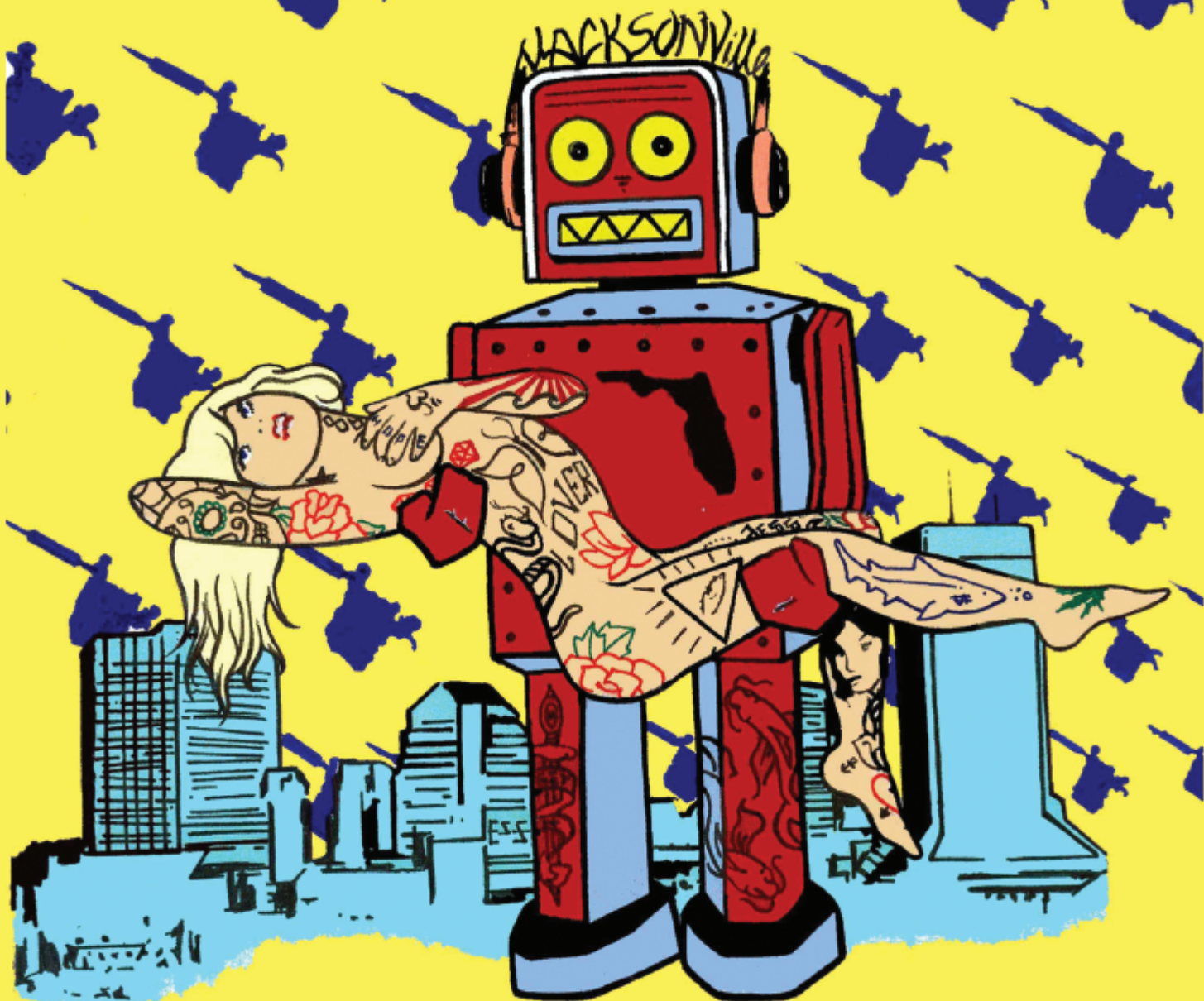
CAPE FEAR TATTOO FEST



E of Cherry Blossom Studios, Dietsch, Chop Shop Tattooer, Josh Paul's lighthouse by Rich Labrosse took 2nd place for Large Black and Gray, rose by Robin on contestant Fallon for Friday's Black and Gray contest. Zedrick's Lord of the Rings' Mouth of Sauron by Luke Blagion.



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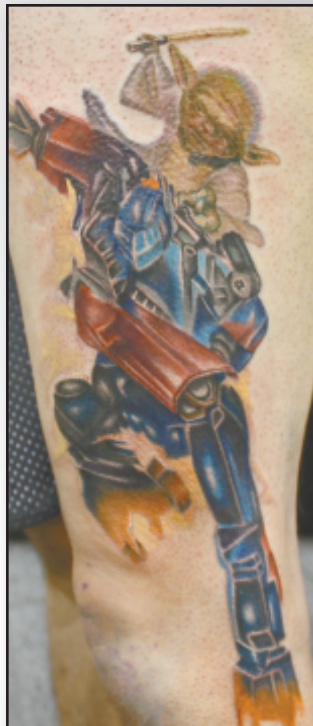
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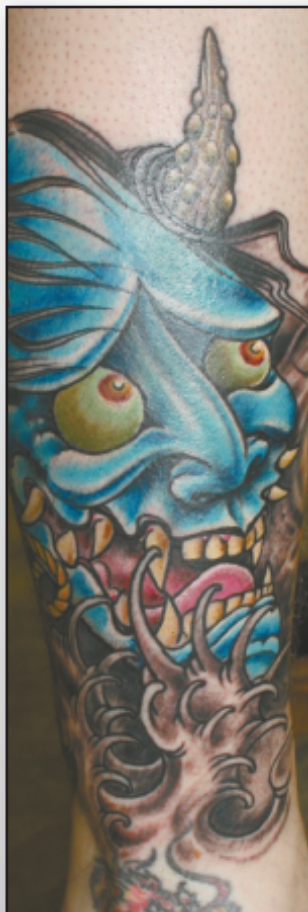
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Above Left to Right: Jereme Jones's Grievous by Neil Vetrano, Richard's Yoda riding Optimus Prime by Randy Templar, Joshua Brumfield's Sith Lord by Shea Halfdead, Left: Allen Kurrin's big bass by Steve Spence. Demon and Leaf creature by Taylor Cort

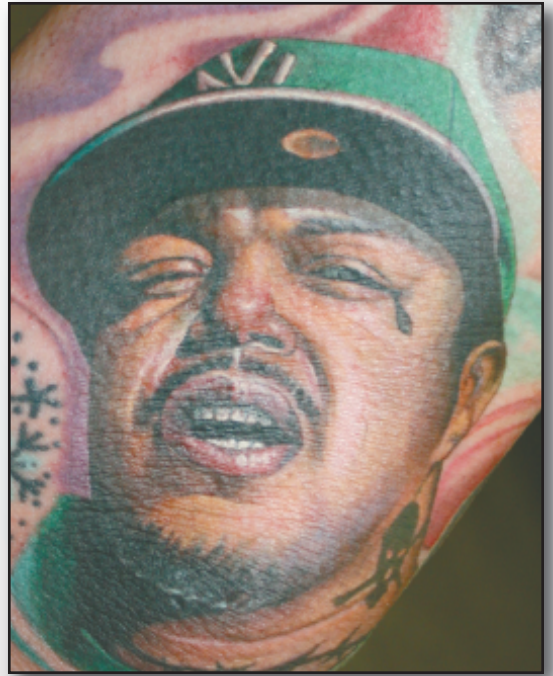
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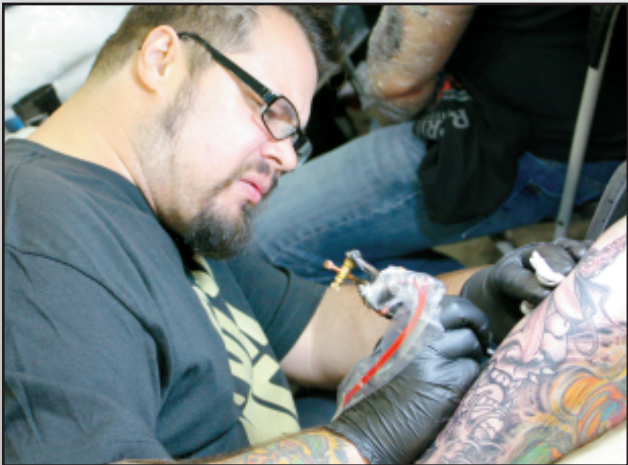


CAPE FEAR TATTOO FEST

This Page: Ken Booher's Day of the Dead girl by Roman Mitchell, Dave Tedder at work, Anchor on Allen Eppard by Noel, Kathy Vasquez got laced up by Alden Boulerville. Facing Page: Marci Ferguson and her awesome owl chest piece by Thomas Michael won 1st place Large Color. Angi's DJ Paul portrait won 2nd place by Gabe, Nikkol Nawrocki won 2nd place Tattoo of the Day with Josh Payne's rendition of Beauty and the Beast.



CAPE FEAR TATTOO FEST



A one-man-band Wilmington street musician, Cheri Whitney's tiger backpiece, James Vaughn at work, Erin Crawford's flowers by Axel Mercier, Goat on Alyssa Mobley by Rusty Sorrel, The Chop Shop familia



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CAPE FEAR TATTOO FEST

Lake Jurosko and her feats of strength, Chrissy Joi Benalm showing off head, chest, and the rest of the goods at the Pin Up Contest





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